Revised: 11/25/03

Woman Abuse: A Statistical Overview*

**Abuse or assault as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada*

"Violence is far less likely between equals...therefore, equality and respect of all people is a crucial concept...women have not yet achieved equality, and this must be redressed."

Witness at the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993

- ♀ 61 % of Canadians have known someone who has experienced family violence. The nature of the most recent incident of family violence was most likely to have been spousal violence (51%)

  Source EKOS Research poll as cited in Statistics Canada: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2002

- ♀ On April 15, 2002, 57% of women who were staying with their children in Canadian women's shelters had brought their children to the shelters specifically to protect the children from witnessing the abuse of their mother at home.

  Source: Statistics Canada.
  Family Violence in Canada: a Statistical Profile, 2003

- ♀ In 2001, the largest increase in spousal homicides in Canada was wives killed by their husbands - 69 wives were killed in 2001. This is 17 more than in 2000.

  Source: Statistics Canada. Centre for Justice Statistics. Juristat. Vol 22 No. 7, September, 2002

- ♀ Young women who are separated from their spouses are at greatest risk for spousal homicide. From 1991-2000, young women (15-24 years) were killed at a rate of 113.4 women per million separated couples, while women 55 years and older were killed at a rate of 9.5 women per million separated couples.

  Source: Statistics Canada. Centre for Justice Statistics. Juristat. Vol 22 No. 7, September, 2002

- ♀ From 1974 -2000, spousal homicide rates in Nova Scotia were more than twice as high for women as for men. *(9.8 wives per million couples was murdered, compared to 3.7 husbands)*

  Source: Statistics Canada. Centre for Justice Statistics. Juristat. Vol 22 # 5, June, 2002

- ♀ In a same-sex relationship, 32.4% of lesbians in Nova Scotia reported they had been abused.

  Source: Smith, Carolyn Gibson: Proud But Cautious: Homophobic Abuse and Discrimination in Nova Scotia. Halifax. Nova Scotia Public Interest Group, 1994.

- ♀ Aboriginal women in Canada are three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.

  Source: Statistics Canada . A Profile of Criminal victimization Results from the 1999 General Social Survey. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue no. 85-553-XIE

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♀ Most cases of spousal violence do not get reported to the police. In 1999, 36 per cent of Nova Scotia women who experienced spousal violence reported it to the police. This means that 64 percent of abused women did not report to police.

Source: Statistics Canada: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile. 2001

Number of Women Murdered/Died Violently (Non-Accidentally) **
In Nova Scotia, by year
January 1, 1989 to November 24 2002

YEAR	NUMBER	YEAR	NUMBER
1989	3 women	1997	7 women
1990	4 women	1998	8 women
1991	6 women	1999	3 women & 1 infant girl
1992	12 women	2000	3 women
1993	4 women	2001	1 infant girl
1994	4 women	2002	4 women
1995	6 women	2003 (to November 25)	2 women
1996	2 women		

In Nova Scotia, a total of 70 females (including 2 infant girls) have been murdered or died violently (non-accidentally) since 1989**

***These numbers have been obtained strictly from analysis of news clippings collected by the NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women and are not official crime statistics.*

For further information on violence and personal safety, see these Advisory Council publications:

Making Changes: A Book for Women in Abusive Relationships:
www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pubs2003_04/makingchanges3_2003rev.pdf

Family violence and Personal Safety:
www.gov.ns.ca/staw/violenceandsafety.pdf

Also see Status of Women Canada's information on December 6
http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/dec6/index_e.html

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